

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNDP REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
EXPLORATION - AGENDA ITEM 12

1. ON JUNE 26 THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UNDP ADOPTED THE
FOLLOWING DECISION:

BEGIN TEXT: THE GOVERNING COUNCIL,

(1.) TAKES NOTE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE
ADMINISTRATOR ON THE UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR
NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION (DP/312), OF THE INTRO-
DUCTORY STATEMENTS MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE
DIRECTOR AND OF THE OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS MADE
DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM,

(2.) APPROVES THE PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADMINISTRA-
TOR FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION IN SELECTED AREAS OF
AFGHANISTAN (DP/313) AND PRECIOUS METALS EXPLORATION
IN EASTERN LIBERIA (DP/314),

(3.) RECOMMENDS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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THAT IT POSTPONE THE REVIEW SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 1(M)
AND (P) OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1762
(LIV) FOR TWO YEARS, UNTIL 1981,

(4.) CONFIRMS THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MR. HIROSHI SAKURAI
AS DIRECTOR OF THE FUND. END TEXT.

2. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR JOHN OLSEN AND DIRECTOR SAKURAI INTRODUCED THE ITEM. SAKURAI'S REMARKS WERE UPBEAT, NOTING THAT THE FUND'S RATE OF ACTIVITY WAS NOW ON AN UPWARD CURVE, WITH FOUR PROJECTS HAVING BEEN APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 1978 SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, TWO WERE BEING PRESENTED FOR THIS SESSION AND AS MANY AS FOUR MORE WOULD BE PRESENTED NEXT JANUARY. INITIAL RELUCTANCE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO REQUEST THE FUND'S ASSISTANCE AND THE VERY HIGH RATE OF REJECTION OF PROJECTS SUBMITTED FOR FUNDING ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS NOW WERE BEING OVERCOME. BASED ON THE MEAGER OPERATING RESULTS THUS FAR OBTAINED, IN THE VIEW OF THE FUND AND THE ADMINISTRATOR, THE THOROUGH REVIEW AND REPORT SCHEDULED FOR 1979 SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL 1981.

3. U.S. MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT IN GENERAL DEBATE ALONG THE LINES CONTAINED IN THE POSITION PAPER, NOTING IN PARTICULAR THE NEED FOR ADHERING TO THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE FUND'S ACTIVITIES. U.S. ALSO QUESTIONED THE TWO PROJECTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL ON THE GROUNDS THAT, AS PRESENTED, THEY DID NOT SEEM TO FALL WITHIN THE FUND'S SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES.

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE ITEM, IN PARTICULAR REMARKS BY JAPANESE DELEGATION, FAVORED THE REQUESTED DELAY IN THE REPORT AND APPROVAL OF THE TWO PROJECTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND REAPPOINTMENT OF SAKURAI TO A THREE YEAR TERM AS DIRECTOR. IN A SECOND INTERVENTION, WHICH FOLLOWED SAKURAI'S RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS BY THE SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, USDEL SUGGESTED THAT AT A MINIMUM A SHORT REPORT ON THE OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED THUS FAR AND A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE VARIOUS PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO BUT REFUSED BY THE FUND BE SUBMITTED TO THE 26TH GOVERNING COUNCIL. THIS SUGGESTION WAS ACCEPTED. BASED ON THE GENERAL GOVERNING COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR THE TWO PROJECTS AND NEW INFORMATION AND ASSURANCES PROVIDED BY SAKURAI THAT SEVERAL TEAMS OF CONSULTANTS ALREADY HAD VISITED AFGHANISTAN AND LIBERIA AND HAD REPORTED ENCOURAGING POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPLOITABLE MINERAL RESOURCES, THEREBY MEETING THE FUND'S MANDATE, USDEL JOINED IN CONSENSUS APPROVAL OF THE DECISION.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS, SAKURAI OFFERED TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE CONSULTANTS' REPORTS ON THE VARIOUS FIELD VISITS TO THE USG FOR INFORMATION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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